

Related Applications

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01/18/95 5 This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application serial no. 08/257,670, filed June 8, 1994, ^{now abandoned,} entitled "Method and Apparatus for Requesting and Retrieving Information From a Source Computer Using Terrestrial and Satellite Interfaces."

Background of the Invention

10 This application relates to a computer network and, more specifically, to a method and apparatus for allowing both high-speed and regular-speed access to a computer network.

The Internet is an example of a TCP/IP network.

15 The Internet has over 10 million users. Conventionally, access to the Internet is achieved using a slow, inexpensive method, such as a terrestrial dial-up modem using a protocol such as SLIP (Serial Line IP), PPP, or by using a fast, more
20 expensive method, such as a switched 56 Kbps, frame relay, ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), or T1.

25 Users generally want to receive (download) large amounts of data from networks such as the Internet. Thus, it is desirable to have a one-way link that is used only for downloading information from the network. A typical user will receive much

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